1   1) A system for processing requests provided to a web or application server comprising,

2   a computer program for assigning cost and benefit values to requests received by said

3   system,

4   a computer program for prioritizing said requests in accordance with the assigned cost and

5   benefit values, and

6   a computer program for scheduling said requests in accordance with the assigned priorities,

7   whereby said requests are not necessarily processed in a first come fist served basis.

8

9   2) A method of scheduling the order that requests are sent to a web application server

10   comprising,

11   classifying and assigning each request received by said web application server cost and

12   benefit value,

13   prioritizing said requests according to said assigned cost and benefit values,

14   scheduling said requests based upon the assigned priority such that requests are not

15   necessarily processed on a first come first serve basis.

16

17   3) The system recited in claim 1 wherein the origin of a request is considered when

18   assigning a priority to said packet.

19

20   4) The method recited in claim 2 wherein the origin of a request is considered when

21   assigning a priority to said packet.

22

23   5) The system recited in claim 1 wherein said requests are classified and prioritized in

24   accordance with parameters established by a system operator.

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26   6) The method recited in claim 2 wherein said requests are classified and prioritized in

27   accordance with parameters established by a system operator.

28

29   7) The system recited in claim 1 wherein said requests are classified and prioritized in

30   accordance with the payload data in requests received by said system.

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32   8) The method recited in claim 2 wherein said requests are classified and prioritized in

33   accordance with the payload data in requests received by said system.

9) The system recited in claim 1 wherein said requests are classified and prioritized in accordance with both the payload data in requests received by said system and with in the packet headers of such requests. .

10) The method recited in claim 2 wherein said requests are classified and prioritized in accordance with the payload data in requests received by said system and with in the packet headers of such requests.

11) A system for servicing requests sent to a web server which includes, buffering said requests, classifying and prioritizing said requests in accordance with specified criteria, scheduling said requests for action by said web server in accordance with the classification and priorities of said requests, whereby requests sent to said web server are operated upon in a sequence specified by said criteria.

12) The method in claim 11 wherein a system operator establishes said criteria weherby said system operator can control the priority that requests sent to said server are processed.

13) The method recited in claim 11 wherein said requests are sent to said server over the Internet.

14) The method recited in claim 11 wherein resources in said web server are assigned to requests based upon the priority and classification of said requests.